

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of adding interactive functionality to a web-page comprising:

- (a) receiving a request for the web-page from a user;
- (b) retrieving the requested web-page;
- (c) adding script code to the requested web-page to add interactive functionality to the web-page; and
- (d) transmitting the requested web-page and script code to the user.

2. A method as recited by claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a request for the web-page from another user;
retrieving the requested web-page;
adding script code to the requested web-page to add interactive functionality to the web-page; and

transmitting the requested web-page and script code to the another user, the script code enabling the user and the another user to interact with each other while viewing the web-page.

3. A method as recited by claim 1, wherein said step (c) comprises parsing the web-page to determine an appropriate location to add the script code.

4. A method as recited by claim 3, wherein the web-page includes a header and wherein the appropriate location is in the header.

5. A method as recited by claim 2, wherein said step (c) comprises parsing the web-page to determine an appropriate location to add the script code.

6. A method as recited by claim 5, wherein the web-page includes a header and wherein the appropriate location is in the header.

7. A method as recited by claim 1, wherein said step (a) comprises:

receiving a data file from the user including user account data and web-page identification data; and

determining if the user is authorized to access the requested web-page.

8. A method as recited by claim 2, wherein said receiving step comprises:

receiving a data file from the another user including user account data and web-page identification data; and

determining if the another user is authorized to access the requested web-page.

9. A method as recited by claim 2, wherein each of the user and the another user have a computer having a display on which the web-page is displayed, each user's computer having a

cursor control device to control movement of a cursor on each user's display, and wherein each user's cursor is unique and appears on the other user's web-page, and wherein the web-page includes a plurality of elements, and wherein the script code added to each user's web-page adds interactive functionality to the web page by:

- assigning a unique identifier to each element in the web-page;
- storing in memory a tree of each unique identifier;
- determining a user's cursor position by intercepting cursor coordinates to provide cursor coordinate data as the users causes the cursor to move over the web-page;
- comparing the cursor coordinate data with the tree to determine the element over which the user's cursor is positioned; and
- transmitting the cursor coordinate data and unique identifier for the element over which the user's cursor is positioned to the other user.

10. A method as recited by claim 9, wherein the script code added to each user's web-page adds interactive functionality to the web page by:

- receiving the cursor coordinate data and unique identifier from the other user;
- comparing the cursor coordinate data and unique identifier with the tree to determine the element over which to position the other user's cursor; and
- positioning the other user's cursor over the element.

11. A method of facilitating and monitoring interaction between a first user viewing a web-page and a second user viewing the web-page, said method comprising:

- (a) providing the web-page to each of the first and second user, the web-page having script code to provide interactive functionality to the web-page;
- (b) receiving cursor data from one of the first and second user; and
- (c) transmitting the received cursor data to the other one of the first and second user.

12. A method as recited by claim 11, wherein the cursor data is one of point data and draw data.

13. A method as recited by claim 11, further comprising transmitting to each of the first and second user, an identity for the other one of the first and second user.

14. A method as recited by claim 11, wherein the first and second users are participants in a session, said method further comprising:

- determining if a new user has joined the session; and
- transmitting to each user participating in the session, an identity for the new user.

15. A method as recited by claim 11, wherein the first and second users are participants in a session, said method further comprising:

determining if a user has left the session; and
transmitting to each user participating in the session, an identity for the
user that has left the session.

16. A system for adding interactive functionality to a web-page requested by a first user having a computer connectable to the Internet using an Internet browser stored on a data storage device of the first user's computer, the Internet browser enabling the first user to cause the computer to establish a connection to the Internet and to request and receive web-pages, said system comprising:

a server having a processor, the first user computer being selectively connectable to said server using the Internet browser, said processor being operable in connection with software loaded on the server for receiving a request from the first user for the web-page, said processor further being operable in connection with the software for retrieving the requested web-page and adding script code to the requested web-page to add interactive functionality to the web-page, said processor further being operable in connection with the software for transmitting the requested web-page and added script code to the first user's computer.

17. A system as recited by claim 16, wherein said processor is further operable in connection with the software on said server for receiving a request for the web-page from a second user having a computer connectable to the Internet using an Internet browser stored on a data storage device of the second user's computer, the Internet browser enabling the second user to cause the computer to establish a connection to the Internet and to request and receive web-

pages, said processor is further operable in connection with the software on said server for retrieving the requested web-page, said processor further being operable in connection with the software for retrieving the requested web-page and adding script code to the requested web-page to add interactive functionality to the web-page, said processor is further operable in connection with the software on said server for transmitting the requested web-page and script code to the second user's computer, the script code enabling the first user and the second user to interact with each other while viewing the web-page.

18. A system as recited by claim 16, wherein said processor is further operable in connection with the software for parsing the web-page to determine an appropriate location to add the script code.

19. A system as recited by claim 17, wherein said processor is further operable in connection with the software for parsing the web-page to determine an appropriate location to add the script code.

20. A system as recited by claim 16, wherein said processor is further operable in connection with the software for receiving a data file from the first user including first user account data and web-page identification data, and wherein said processor is further operable in connection with the software for determining if the first user is authorized to access the requested web-page.

21. A system as recited by claim 17, wherein said processor is further operable in connection with the software for receiving a data file from the second user including second user account data and web-page identification data, wherein said processor is further operable in connection with the software for determining if the second user is authorized to access the requested web-page.

22. A system as recited by claim 17, wherein each of the first and second user's computer has a cursor control device to control movement of a cursor on a display of each of the first and second user's computer, and wherein each of the first and second user's cursor is unique and appears on the other display of the other user's computer, and wherein the web-page includes a plurality of elements, wherein said processor is further operable in connection with the software for adding interactive functionality to the web page by adding script code to the web-page for assigning a unique identifier to each element in the web-page, storing in memory a tree of each unique identifier, determining a cursor position for each of the first and second user's cursor by intercepting cursor coordinates to provide cursor coordinate data as each of the first and second user causes their cursor to move over the web-page, comparing the cursor coordinate data with the tree to determine the element over which each of the first and second user's cursor is positioned, and transmitting the cursor coordinate data and unique identifier for the element over which each of the first and second user's cursor is positioned to the other user.

23. A system as recited by claim 22, wherein said processor is further operable in connection with the software for adding interactive functionality to the web page by adding script

code to the web-page for receiving the cursor coordinate data and unique identifier from the other user, comparing the cursor coordinate data and unique identifier with the tree to determine the element over which to position the other user's cursor, and positioning the other user's cursor over the element.

24. A system for facilitating and monitoring interaction between a first user viewing a web-page and a second user viewing the web-page, said system comprising:

a server having a processor operable in connection with software loaded on the server for providing the web-page to each of the first and second user, the web-page having script code to provide interactive functionality to the web-page, said processor being further operable in connection with the software for receiving cursor data from one of the first and second user, said processor being further operable in connection with the software for transmitting the received cursor data to the other one of the first and second user.

25. The system as recited by claim 24, wherein the cursor data is one of point data and draw data.

26. The system as recited by claim 24, wherein said processor is further operable in connection with software for transmitting to each of the first and second user, an identity for the other one of the first and second user.

27. A system as recited by claim 24, wherein the first and second users are participants in a session, said processor being further operable in connection with software for determining if a new user has joined the session, and transmitting to each user participating in the session, an identity for the new user.

28. A system as recited by claim 24, wherein the first and second users are participants in a session, said processor being further operable in connection with software for determining if a user has left the session, and transmitting to each user participating in the session, an identity for the user that has left the session.

29. A computer readable medium comprising computer code for instructing one or more processors to add interactive functionality to a web-page by:

- (a) receiving a request for the web-page from a user;
- (b) retrieving the requested web-page;
- (c) adding script code to the requested web-page to add interactive functionality to the web-page; and
- (d) transmitting the requested web-page and script code to the user.

30. A computer readable medium as recited by claim 29, further comprising computer code for instructing one or more processors to add interactive functionality to a web-page by:

- (e) receiving a request for the web-page from another user;
- (f) retrieving the requested web-page;

(g) adding script code to the requested web-page to add interactive functionality to the web-page; and

(h) transmitting the requested web-page and script code to the another user, the script code enabling the user and the another user to interact with each other while viewing the web-page.

31. A computer readable medium comprising computer code for instructing one or more processors to facilitate and monitor interaction between a first user viewing a web-page and a second user viewing the same web-page by:

(a) providing the web-page to each of the first and second user, the web-page having script code to provide interactive functionality to the web-page;

(b) receiving cursor data from one of the first and second user; and

(c) transmitting the received cursor data to the other one of the first and second user.